

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SAIGON 15648 200830Z

12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAM-01 NIC-01 AID-05 /083 W

----- 121591

R 200519Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1254

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL JEC PARIS

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SAIGON 15648

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, PDEV, VS

SUBJ: "PRG" EFFORT TO ESTABLISH

ITS LEGITIMACY

REF: FBIS S070710 AND FOLLOW-ONS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. BEGINNING ON DECEMBER 5 THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OF THE SO-CALLED "PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT" ISSUED IN EIGHT INSTALLMENTS WHAT IT TERMED AN "IMPORTANT DOCUMENT" ENTITLED "THE PROVISIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT IS THE SOLE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE." THE DOCUMENT SEEMS CLEARLY DESIGNED FOR USE BY HANOI AND ITS SUPPORTERS IN THE REDOUBLED EFFORT TO WIN INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE "PRG". WE SUSPECT THAT TIMING OF ITS PUBLICATION IS PEGGED TO THE UPCOMING SECOND SESSION OF THE LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE IN FEBRUARY AT WHICH, ACCORDING TO REPORTS, THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS AND THEIR FRIENDS WILL SEEK TO REVERSE THE FIRST SESSION'S DECISION NOT TO INVITE THE "PRG" TO ATTEND.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SAIGON 15648 200830Z

2. THE DOCUMENT RECOUNTS THE FOUNDING OF THE "PRG" IN EARLY

JUNE 1969 BY A "CONGRESS" OF 88 WELL- AND LESSER-KNOWN COMMUNIST OPERATIVES WHICH IT DESCRIBES AS A GATHERING REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AT LARGE. IT DOES NOT STATE IF, OR BY WHOM, THESE 88 "DELEGATES" WERE ELECTED. IT THEN MAKES THE OBVIOUSLY FALSE CLAIM THAT "REVOLUTIONARY ADMINISTRATIONS" HAVE BEEN SET UP IN SIX REGIONS, 44 PROVINCES, SIX MAJOR MUNICIPALITIES, 230 DISTRICTS AND 2,500 VILLAGES. (NOT ONE COMMUNIST CADRE OR ONE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY OFFICER IN SVN COULD BELIEVE SUCH A STATEMENT.)

3. THE DOCUMENT GOES ON TO PRESENT A CAPSULE HISTORY OF THE LAST FEW YEARS OF NVA-VC ACTIVITIES IN SVN, A HISTORY IN WHICH THERE ARE MANY OMISSIONS. BOTH THE TET OFFENSIVE OF 1968 AND THE EASTER OFFENSIVE OF 1972 ARE GIVEN ONLY BRIEF, BROAD BRUSH TREATMENT AND ALTHOUGH THEY ARE SAID TO HAVE BEEN VICTORIOUS THEY APPARENTLY PRODUCED NO SPECIFIC VICTORIES THE DOCUMENT COULD MENTION. (THE LATTER OFFENSIVE WAS IN FACT MARKED BY THREE GVN SUCCESSES: THE RECAPTURE OF QUANG TRI IN THE FACE OF AN ALL-OUT NORTH VIETNAMESE DEFENSE, AND THE SUCCESSFUL DEFENSES OF AN LOC AND OF KONTUM.) THE DOCUMENT'S AUTHOR SEEMS CONSCIOUS THAT ONLY LIMITED ENCOURAGEMENT CAN BE DRAWN FROM THE HISTORY OF NORTH VIETNAM'S MILITARY CAMPAIGNS IN SVN.

4. INSTALLMENT THREE IS AN ATTEMPT TO DEMONSTRATE HOW, UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, THE "PRG" QUALIFIES AS A GOVERNMENT. IT STATES THAT "BEING ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE" IS AMONG THE "VERY IMPORTANT LEGAL STANDARDS FOR A GOVERNMENT"; THE DOCUMENT ITSELF STATES THE "PRG" WAS "ELECTED" BY A MERE 88 PERSONS (OR ROUGHLY FIVE TEN-THOUSANDTHS OF ONE PERCENT OF THE PEOPLE IT CLAIMS TO REPRESENT). ALSO, IN AN ATTEMPT TO SHAPE INTERNATIONAL LAW AND CUSTOM TO FIT POLITICAL REALITY, THE DOCUMENT ASSERTS THAT "THE NEED TO CONTROL A CAPITAL IS NOT PRESCRIBED BY ANY SINGLE PRINCIPLE OF ANY SINGLE PROVISION OF ANY SINGLE INTERNATIONAL LAW." (BUT WHY DOES NOT THE "PRG" DESIGNATE AS A CAPITAL ONE OF THE "SIX MAJOR MUNICIPALITIES" WHICH IT CLAIMS TO ADMINISTER?)

5. INTERESTINGLY, "SOVEREIGNTY" IS NOT ATTRIBUTED TO THE "PRG" ANYWHERE IN THE DOCUMENT. THE REASON FOR THIS, PRESUMABLY, IS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SAIGON 15648 200830Z

THAT, IN HANOI'S SCHEME OF THINGS, THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENT IN VIET-NAM, NORTH AND SOUTH, OR AS NORTH VIET-NAM'S (DRV) CONSTITUTION PUTS IT, "FROM LANG SON TO CA MAU." THERE SEEMED TO BE SOME CONFUSION IN COMMUNIST RANKS OVER THE CONCEPT OF SOVEREIGNTY DURING THE SUMMER AND FALL OF 1973. WHEN THE GVN PROTESTED THE VISIT OF AN AID-BEARING PRC SHIP TO DONG HA IN SOUTH VIET-NAM, LIBERATION RADIO REPLIED THAT RECEIVING AID FROM THE PRC "IS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH THE

SOVEREIGNTY OF A LEGAL GOVERNMENT OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE." BUT "PRG" MEDIA HAVE NOT, SINCE THIS PERIOD, ATTRIBUTED SOVEREIGNTY TO THE "PRG". READERS OF THE BASIC DOCUMENT ARE LED TO CONCLUDE THAT THE "PRG" IS A "GOVERNMENT" WITHOUT SOVEREIGN POWER OR GOVERNMENT CAPITAL.

6. THE DOCUMENT CLAIMS THAT, SINCE ITS FORMATION, THE "PRG" HAS "CONTROLLED THE BULK OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE TERRITORY". REVEALINGLY, IT MAKES NO SIMILAR CLAIM WITH RESPECT TO THE POPULATION, ASSERTING ONLY THAT THE "PRG" HAS "ENJOYED THE CONFIDENCE, LOVE AND WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT OF THE ABSOLUTE MAJORITY OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE." (READERS MAY BE LED TO WONDER WHY, IF THIS IS SO, THERE IS AN ARMY OF OVER ONE MILLION SOUTH VIETNAMESE DRAWN FROM EVERY PART OF THE COUNTRY FIGHTING HARD AND VALIANTLY TO AVOID "PRG" RULE. THEY MAY ALSO WONDER WHY AT THE PARIS TALKS THE "PRG" HAS SO STRENUOUSLY AVOIDED NAMING A DATE FOR THE "GENUINELY FREE AND DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS" CALLED FOR BY THE PARIS AGREEMENT.)

7. THE AUTHOR DESCRIBES ECONOMIC CONDITIONS UNDER THE "PRG" AS PROSPEROUS WHILE AT ANOTHER POINT HE STATES THAT IN GVN AREAS LIVING CONDITIONS ARE " INCREASINGLY PRECARIOUS." THERE IS NO CLAIM, HOWEVER, THAT PEOPLE ARE FLEEING PRECARIOUS CONDITIONS UNDER THE GVN TO ENJOY PROSPERITY UNDER THE "PRG", EVEN LESS IS THERE ANY RECOGNITION OF THE FACT ACCEPTED BY ALL OBSERVERS, NAMELY, THAT REFUGEES IN SVN UNIVERSALLY FLEE TOWARD THE GVN AREA, NOT THE OTHER WAY.

8. TOWARD THE END THE DOCUMENT TURNS TO THE "PRG'S DIPLOMATIC ACHIEVEMENTS. IT AVERS THAT "MANY" (IN FACT ABOUT A DOZEN) GOVERNMENTS HAVE SENT THEIR AMBASSADORS TO QUANG TRI PROVINCE, JUST BELOW THE DMZ TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS TO THE "PRG" (OMITTING TO MENTION THAT NOT A SINGLE ENVOY RESIDES ON

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SAIGON 15648 200830Z

SOUTH VIETNAMESE SOIL). IT GOES ON TO CLAIM "MANY" ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES HAVE "RECENTLY" RECOGNIZED AND ESTABLISHED AMBASSADORIAL-LEVEL RELATIONS WITH THE "PRG". (IN THE PAST YEAR, THREE COUNTRIES HAVE RECOGNIZED "PRG" BUT THERE IS NO REPORT THAT ANY HAS ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH "PRG" AT ANY LEVEL.) THE DOCUMENT CLAIMS THAT "A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS " HAVE SEVERED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE GVN AND ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH THE "PRG". (WE KNOW OF NOT ONE COUNTRY THAT FITS THIS DESCRIPTION.)

9. FOR WHAT WAS INTENDED TO BE A MAJOR EFFORT, THE "PRG" DOCUMENT IS SURPRISINGLY INEPT AND UNCONVINCING. IT IS ALSO TEDIOUSLY REPETITIVE AND POORLY PUT TOGETHER. NONETHELESS FOR AUDIENCES OUTSIDE VIETNAM IT SUPPLIES SUPPOSED "FACTS" AND ARGUMENTATION THAT COULD BE EFFECTIVE AND WE CAN EXPECT

TO SEE THEM IN USE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

MARTIN

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RECOGNITION, DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SAIGON15648
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740370-0691
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741219/aaaaapnx.tel
Line Count: 171
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 FBIS S070710, 74 AND FOLLOW-ONS
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUL 2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: "PRG" EFFORT TO ESTABLISH ITS LEGITIMACY
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, PDEV, VS, PRG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005